

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

Chairman: Peter Wilkinson

Clerk: David Brough

MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held 19th March 2025 at 8pm in Yelden Village Hall

Present: Cllrs Craig Young (Vice Chairman – chaired this meeting), Paul Alexander, Jason Gordon, Sarah Croft, David Brough (Clerk).

- 1 **Apologies for absence accepted:** Peter Wilkinson (Chairman – Away), Frank Morgan (Away), Mark Fitzsimmons (Away).

Borough Councillor Martin Towler (Clash with BBC Full Council meeting).

Absent: Simon Paynter.

- 2 **Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:** None.

- 3 **Requests to grant dispensations for declared interests:** None.

- 4 **Public Open Session:** No members of the public attended.

- 5 **Approval of the minutes of the parish council meetings** held on 15th January 2025.

Resolved to approve the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting.

- 6 **Clerk's report on the Action List**

Update on Yelden playground installation: The Clerk ordered a plaque for the Village Hall Committee to install at the playground; this was a requirement of the government grant funding. The Clerk also arranged for a public survey that demonstrated the playground's benefit to the area – another funding requirement.

- 7 **Finance**

- *To approve payments and note receipts.*

Resolved to approve the payments listed in the appendix.

- *To review the bank balance and the "Spend vs Budget" analysis.*

The council noted the balances and analysis with no concerns. There is still an underspend of approximately £1k due to a resident carrying out the cutting of the common land and the allotments hedge. See appendix for reports.

- 8 **Risk Assessment**

Annual review of the parish council's risk assessment.

Resolved to adopt the Risk Assessment that had been prepared by the Clerk.

- 9 **Melchbourne Litterpick**

Proposal from Cllr Gordon: To consider options to facilitate the Melchbourne litterpick, which had to be cancelled due to insurance issues with Bedford Borough Council.

The parish council's insurer agreed to cover the litterpick event if it was run by a parish councillor, and with suitable risk mitigation set out in a Risk Assessment. **Resolved** that either Cllrs Gordon or Croft would run the event and the salient points for risk mitigation were agreed for the Risk Assessment.

- 10 **Crime report**

Crime report as below for the prior two months – no recorded actions.

Police UK Category **Recorded Date** **Offence**

Vehicle Crime

31/01/2025 THEFT OR UNAUTH TAKING OF A MOTOR VEH

Address 1

Address 3

Knotting Road Melchbourne

David Brough, Clerk, Melchbourne & Yelden Parish Council

E-mail: melchyeldpc@gmail.com

11 Planning applications and enforcement:

- **New applications received since the last meeting (to include any received after the agenda is issued up to the date of the meeting).**

APPLICATION NO: 25/00324/FUL Full Planning Application

PROPOSAL: Erection of an oak frame detached garage

LOCATION : 32 Park Road Melchbourne Bedford Bedfordshire MK44 1BB

Resolved to support this application, which is perceived to have no detrimental impact.

APPLICATION NO: 25/00507/FUL Full Planning Application

PROPOSAL: Two storey side/rear extension and new front porch

LOCATION : Beckbridge High Street Yelden Bedford Bedfordshire MK44 1AW

Resolved not to comment or object to this application.

- **Monitoring of applications and enforcement (for information)**

- The below application was **refused** by Bedford Borough Council and was **dismissed on appeal** with the planning inspectorate.

APPEAL BY: Mr and Mrs Hodson

PROPOSAL : Outline Planning Application with all matters reserved except for access and scale, for a proposed agricultural workers dwelling on land at Hill Farm, Riseley

PLANNING NO: 23/02188/OUT Outline

LOCATION : Hill Farm Melchbourne Road Riseley Bedford Bedfordshire MK44 1BY

- The below application was **refused** by Bedford Borough Council and has now been taken to **appeal** with the planning inspectorate.

APPEAL BY: Mr L Collyer

PROPOSAL : Erection of single storey rear/side infill extension and internal alterations

PLANNING NO: 24/01241/LBC Listed Building Consent

LOCATION : Apple Tree Cottage 35 Knotting Road Melchbourne Bedford Bedfordshire MK44 1BE

- The following is a long-standing item of enforcement:

Reference: 14/00392/UNAUTU. Location: Hill Farm, Melchbourne Road, Riseley.

Details: Investigation regarding the right to live on the land.

History: Planning application 22/01571/MAF was refused by BBC Planning in November 2022, 23/01212/FUL was refused in August 2023, 23/02188/OUT in December 2023, and 24/00466/FUL in September 2024. Appeal for 23/02188/OUT dismissed in February 2025.

12 Councillors' Reports and Updates:

- Ward Councillor – Cllr Martin Towler

Not available for an update due to a clash with a borough council meeting.

- Chelveston Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund Trust

No meeting had taken place – nothing to report.

- Highways, drains and streetlights

It was reported that:

- The drain cover on Church Lane Yelden that was leaking water again had been repaired by Anglian Water Assets.
- The broken road safety barrier on the way towards Swineshead had been repaired by BBC Highways.

- Report on Speeding (SIDs – Speed Indication Devices) – Cllr Morgan

Cllr Morgan provided an update in advance: the SID by Trailly Close in Yelden had been fixed but still hadn't been replaced by Morelock (supplier) and was to be put back in place shortly. The second Yelden SID was still in the process of being repaired by the manufacturer in Germany.

- Report on River Til/Yelden Flood group – Cllr Alexander

Cllr Alexander reported that the river was being monitored for blockages/narrowing on an ongoing basis, with no current significant concerns.

13 **Business for future agendas** – no decisions can be taken

Proposal from Cllr Gordon who had recently attended a meeting hosted by Clapham Parish Council: To prepare, ready for submission, a response to the East West Rail statutory consultation.

Date of the next meeting: Wednesday, 21st May 2025 at 8pm – Annual meetings – Melchbourne Village Hall.

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council Payments & Receipts - March 2025

Date Paid	Category	Payee/Payer	Desc	Transfers	Receipts	Payments Gross	VAT	Cashbook Balance	Bank balance
Lloyds Bank								£ 4,664.68	£ 4,664.68
20/01/2025	Village Hall Hire	Melchbourne VH	Melchbourne Village Hall hire - Jan			£ 20.00			
14/01/2025	Streetlights: Elect	NPower	NPower Streetlight			£ 49.38	£ 2.35		
29/01/2025	VAT Refund	HMRC			£ 6,287.86				
17/02/2025	Streetlights: Elect	NPower	NPower Streetlight			£ 53.12	£ 2.53		
17/02/2025	BBC UKSPF Grant	BBC		£ 10,000.00					£ 20,830.04
Not Yet Paid	Payroll fees	Red Shoes	Expenses Clerk: Qtrly payroll fees			£ 32.40	£ 5.40		
Not Yet Paid	Staff Costs	Multiple	Inc Qtrly PAYE			£ 876.53			
Not Yet Paid	Staff Costs	Multiple	Underpayment catchup			£ 626.00			
Not Yet Paid	Village Hall Hire	Yelden VH	Yelden Village Hall hire			£ 20.00			
								£ 19,275.11	

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council
Spend vs Budget report

2024/25 P&L (Net of VAT) - As at Mar 2025

<u>Income</u>		YTD (Actual) Gross	YTD (Actual) Net	Annual Budget	Full year (Est)	Variance
Precept Income		8,713	8,713	8,713	8,713	0
	Ward Fund Grant - Playground	1,000	1,000	0	1,000	
	BBC UKSPF Grant	20,000	20,000	0	20,000	
	Chelveston Fund Grant - SID	500	500	0	500	
	Chelveston Fund Grant - Playground	10,000	10,000	0	10,000	
Other Income		31,500	31,500	0	31,500	31,500
VAT Refund		7,217		0		0
Allotment Income		13	13	13	13	0
CIL Receipts (Section 106)		0	0	0	0	0
Bank Interest		0	0	16	0	-16
Total Income		47,443	40,226	8,742	40,226	31,484
<u>Outgoings</u>						
Employment Costs	Staff Costs	5,483	5,483	5,483	5,483	
		5,483	5,483	5,483	5,483	0
	Village Hall Hire	120	120	90		
	Payroll fees	97	86	80		
	ICO - Annual Data Protection	35	35	35		
	Membership BATPC	0	0	110		
	Training: Councillors	0	0	15		
	Clerk Expenses	10	10	16		
	Internal Audit	155	155	160		
	External Audit	0	0	0		
	Website running cost	220	200	270		
	Election costs	0	0	30		
Admin		637	606	806	606	200
Insurance		379	379	450	379	71
	Maintenance	0	0	1,003	0	
	Streetlights: Elect	452	433	500	433	
Parks and open spaces		452	433	1,503	433	1,070
Grants out	Grant Honeycomb	150	150			
		150	150	200	150	50
	Yelden Playground	37,200	31,000	0	31,000	
	Defib Maintenance & Speed sign accrual	286	238	300	238	
Miscellaneous		37,486	31,238	300	31,238	-30,938
Total Outgoings		44,587	38,289	8,742	38,289	-29,547
Year To Date Net P&L		2,857	1,937	0		1,937

Melchbourne and Yelden Parish Council

2024/25 - Balance - Mar 2025

		£
Lloyds Current Account	Current Balance (Forecast)	19,275

Allocation of Balance Sheet

River Til Reserve	9,956	Balancing figure
Allotments Reserve	1,422	
General reserve	7,897	